

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

HA-05 /071 W

-----114266 290330Z /70

R 280335Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9229

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 12901

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, RP

SUBJECT: INTERIM LEGISLATURE: KBL CAUCUS NAMES

- MAKALINTAL AS SPEAKER; IBP FOREIGN AFFAIRS
- LEADERSHIP APPOINTED

1. SUMMARY: RULING KBL PARTY, WITH THE PRESIDENT'S BLESSING, HAS NOMINATED RETIRED SUPREME COURT CHIEF JUSTICE MAKALINTAL, A MARCOS LOYALIST, TO BE IBP SPEAKER, THE TOP POSITION IN THE NEW LEGISLATURE. THE KBL CAUCUS ALSO NAMED FORMER VICE PRESIDENT PELAEZ VICE-CHAIRMAN OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE. MARCOS ANNOUNCED APPOINTMENT OF FORMER SENATOR TOLENTINO AS MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TO SERVE AS LIAISON BETWEEN IBP AND MFA. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING PARTY CAUCUS AT MALACANANG PALACE JULY 26, INTERIM BATASANG PAMBANSA'S RULING KBL PARTY SELECTED METRO-MANILA ASSEMBLYMAN QUERUBE MAKALINTAL AS SPEAKER OF THE IBP. FORMAL IBP APPROVAL IS EXPECTED SHORTLY. MAKALINTAL, 67, A FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE OF SUPREME COURT, HAS NO PREVIOUS LEGISLATIVE EXPERIENCE. PRESIDENT/PRIME MINISTER MARCOS SAID HE WOULD CONTINUE TO PRESIDE AT IBP SESSIONS WHENEVER POSSIBLE, BUT HE DID NOT WANT HIS OCCASIONAL ABSENCES TO INTERRUPT PROCEEDINGS.

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3. CAUCUS ALSO NAMED NORTHERN MINDANAO ASSEMBLYMAN EMMANUEL PELAEZ AS VICE CHAIRMAN OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE; FONMIN ROMULO IS EX-OFFICIO CHAIRMAN. PELAEZ, 62, WAS A CONGRESSMAN 1949-53, A SENATOR 1953-57 AND 1967-72, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES 1961-65 UNDER MACAPAGAL, AND CONCURRENTLY SECRETARY

IARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

1961-63.

4. AT THE CAUCUS MARCOS ANNOUNCEDN

OKINTMENT OF METRO-

MANILA ASSEMBLYMAN ARTURO TOLDB

KNO AS MINISTER OF STATE

FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS. MARCOS LACONICALLY DESCRIBED HIS
NEW FUNCTION AS LIAISON BETWEEN FOREIGN MINISTRY AND THE
IBP. HE SAID HE INTENDS TO APPOINT MINISTERS OF STATE
FOR OTHER MINISTRIES AS WELL. TOLENTINO, 67, IS
CURRENTLY AMBASSADOR AND CO-CHAIRMAN (WITH JUSTICE
MINISTER) OF PHILIPPINE DELEGATION TO LOS CONFERENCE;
HE WAS A CONGRESSMAN 1949-57 AND SENATOR 1957-72.

5. FOLLOWING IS BIO DATA ON SPEAKER-DESIGNATE. QUERUBE
MAKALINTAL WAS BORN IN BATANGAS PROVINCE DECEMBER 22,
1910. HE GRADUATED FROM THE U.P. COLLEGE OF LAW IN 1933
AND PASSED THE BAR EXAM THE SAME YEAR. HE PRACTICED
LAW 1934-46 AND WAS APPOINTED TO ILOILO COURT OF FIRST
INSTANCE IN 1946. HE WAS BRIEFLY PRESIDENT MAGSAYSAY'S
SOLICITOR GENERAL IN 1954 AND THEN WAS APPOINTED TO THE
COURT OF APPEALS IN 1954. PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL APPOINTED
HIM TO THE SUPREME COURT IN 1961. HE BECAME ACTING
CHIEF JUSTICE IN JUNE 1973 AND WAS APPOINTED CHIEF
JUSTICE BY PRESIDENT MARCOS IN OCTOBER 1973, APPARENTLY
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LARGELY ON BASIS OF SENIORITY. HE RETIRED ON HIS
65TH BIRTHDAY IN 1975. A 1973 EMBASSY REPORT
(73 MANILA A-328) SAID HE WAS "CONSIDERED ONE OF THE
WEAKER SUPREME COURT JUSTICES" AND "WOULD NORMALLY BE IN
THE MARCOS CAMP."

6. COMMENT: IN HIS USUAL CAUTIOUS FASHION, MARCOS
DELAYED SELECTION OF THE IBP LEADERSHIP TO WATCH EMERGING
PATTERNS. PRESS REPORTS AND PRIVATE SOURCES HAVE
SPECULATED SINCE WELL BEFORE THE IBP OPENED IN JUNE THAT
MAKALINTAL, FONMIN ROMULO, TOLENTINO AND PELAEZ WERE THE
MAJOR PROSPECTS FOR THE SPEAKERSHIP -- THE FORMER TWO
FOR THEIR LOYALTY AND SENIORITY, AND THE LATTER TWO
FOR THEIR INDEPENDENCE AND LEADERSHIP CAPABILITIES.
MARCOS HAS APPARENTLY OPTED FOR THE LEAST ASSERTIVE OF
THE FOUR AND HAS GIVEN CONSOLATION PRIZES TO TOLENTINO
AND PELAEZ. THERE IS NO FURTHER WORD AT THIS DATE ON
THE NAMING OF A DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER. ROMULO, AS WELL
AS MRS. MARCOS AND MAKALINTAL, WERE EARLIER RUMORED AS
POSSIBLE CHOICES FOR THAT POSITION. MURPHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPEAKERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MANILA12901
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780311-0327
Format: TEL
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780710/aaaaahzq.tel
Line Count: 114
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5335c06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1844400
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INTERIM LEGISLATURE: KBL CAUCUS NAMES - MAKALINTAL AS SPEAKER; IBP FOREIGN AFFAIRS - LEADERSHIP APPOINTED
TAGS: PINT, RP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5335c06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014